

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE:CRJ

APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE

PM:MR. SMITH

DOD/ISA:COL.SIGLER (INFO)

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R 092351Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109201

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS ET US

SUBJECT: GOK COMMENTS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

1. DURING CALL MAY 8 BY AF/E DIRECTOR COOTE ON KENYAN FONMIN WAIYAKI AT NEW YORK HILTON HOTEL, FONMIN REFERRED TO IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA. HE NOTED PARTICULARLY RECENT VISIT TO NAIROBI BY ETHIOPIAN FONMIN KIFLE, INCLUDING TALK WITH KENYATTA, AND RESUMPTION OF ETHIO-KENYAN MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

2. WAIYAKI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EPMG. HE SAID THAT ETHIOPIANS HAD TOLD HIM THAT THEY WANTED TO CONTINUE TO GET ALL THEIR
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MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM U.S.,AND THAT THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF TURNING TO U.S.S.R. OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE.

3. WAIYAKI THEN SAID THAT KIFLE EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT LACK OF FORTHCOMING U.S. ATTITUDE IN AREA OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND ASKED GOK TO MAKE REPRESENTATION TO USG TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE AND HELPFUL WITH SUCH ASSISTANCE. WAIYAKI HAD NOT FOLLOWED UP ON KIFLE'S REQUEST SINCE HE WAS RELUCTANT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY U.S.-ETHIOPIAN PROBLEM. NEVERTHE-

LESS HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL ON THIS OCCASION TO CONVEY TO US INFORMALLY EPMG'S ATTITUDE.

4. COOTE EXPLAINED THAT HIGH-LEVEL USG OFFICIALS HAVE STRESSED ON NUMEROUS OCCASION OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN SAME FRIENDLY AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS WHICH EXISTED IN PAST, AND THAT WE HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND DROUGHT ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA. IN FACT, WE WERE PROVIDING CONSIDERABLY MORE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PRESENT REGIME THAN WHEN EMPEROR WAS IN POWER. COOTE STATED THAT ONE OF EPMG'S CONCERNS UNDOUBTEDLY WAS THAT SOME OF EQUIPMENT WAS NOT GETTING THERE AS QUICKLY AS ETHIOPIANS DESIRED. SINCE ETHIOPIANS EXPECTED SOMALIS TO LAUNCH ATTACK AGAINST OGADEN SHORTLY AFTER SIAD STEPPED DOWN IN JULY AS PRESIDENT OF OAU, THEY WANTED ALL EQUIPMENT IN PLACE BY THAT DATE. WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO MEET THEIR DEADLINE, BUT BECAUSE OF EXTENDED LEAD TIME IN SUPPLYING SOME OF EQUIPMENT PLUS LATE REQUEST FOR SEVERAL ITEMS IT WAS NOT FEASIBLE TO DELIVER EVERYTHING IN SUCH LIMITED TIME FRAME. NEVERTHELESS WE WERE DOING OUR BEST TO BE RESPONSIVE.

5. WAIYAKI WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA AND URGED THAT WE DO ALL WE COULD TO MEET THEIR NEEDS. KENYA TOO, HE ADDED, WAS WORRIED ABOUT SOMALI THREAT AND AGREED WITH EPMG THAT SOMALIS WOULD LAUNCH SOME FORM OF AGGRESSION DURING SUMMER. KISSINGER

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